

THE ADVENTURES OF SUZANNE

A SERIES
OF
MODERN
COMEDIES
BY
ORSON LOWELL

No. 3. A QUESTION OF COCKTAILS



SCENE I.

SUZANNE, who is a thorough little temperance woman, is distressed when Tom brings up again that old question of serving cocktails and wine at their dinner parties. She feels that it must soon be settled, once and for all time. "Our house is the only one in our circle where the dinners are 'dry' and correspondingly dull," says her husband. "Tom, dear, if we have to brighten up our parties with alcohol, the fault is with the guests and not with our dinners," retorts Suzanne.

SCENE II

SUZANNE consults with her brother Billy's friend, Brandon Mortimer. Mr. Mortimer is something on the stage. Billy says he can do all sorts of stunts and tricks, and once "doubled in brass"—whatever that means. He will be sure to come, as he is "resting" at present, and, Billy says, is known never to decline a dinner invitation. Suzanne wonders if Mr. Mortimer could simulate extreme intoxication upon, say, two drinks. Mr. Mortimer is sure he could.



Scene I



Scene II



Scene III

SCENE III

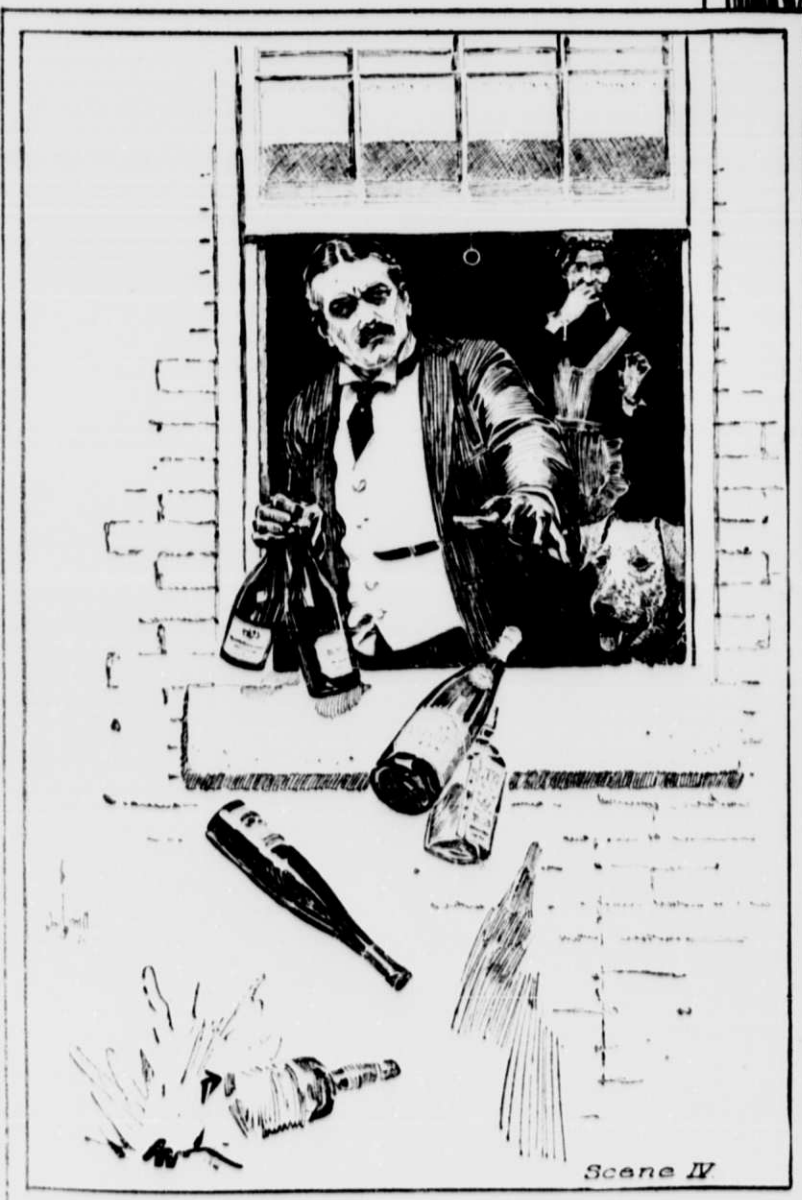
SUZANNE waits until Tom's father and mother visit them, and then gives a dinner party to which is bidden, among others, Mr. Brandon Mortimer, the distinguished actor-manager, who goes in with Tom's mother. Presently Suzanne, looking across her own turned-down glasses to where the wine is flowing quite freely, finds herself the hostess of a very jolly dinner. She has led up adroitly to two of Tom's best stories, when, at about half past fish, Mr. Mortimer, never

the one to shirk his part in an entertainment, becomes noisily "broad" and obliges with a song. This proves to be a pleasant little thing called "The Curse of an Aching Heart," with a chorus beginning "You've made me what I am to-day—I hope you're satisfied. You dragged and dragged me down until my soul within me died." Looking at her husband's face across the table, Suzanne wonders if her scheme is not, perhaps, working out too well, after all, and her embarrassment is not entirely feigned.

SCENE IV

"THERE. Never again will a dinner guest of ours have to be carried out and put in a cab. He might at least have stopped singing when the Fergusons stuck their heads out of the windows." It is Tom who is speaking, and the time is the morning after.

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Scene IV